

Nation

Volume 20, No. 04 • December 28, 2012



Happy Holidays

State of the Nation

Political Reflections and Projections

Resolving for the New Year

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EEYOU ISTCHEE. 3 A.M.



WOW, THAT WAS A FUN PARTY!

YEAH, BUT I THINK I DRANK TOO MUCH (HIC)



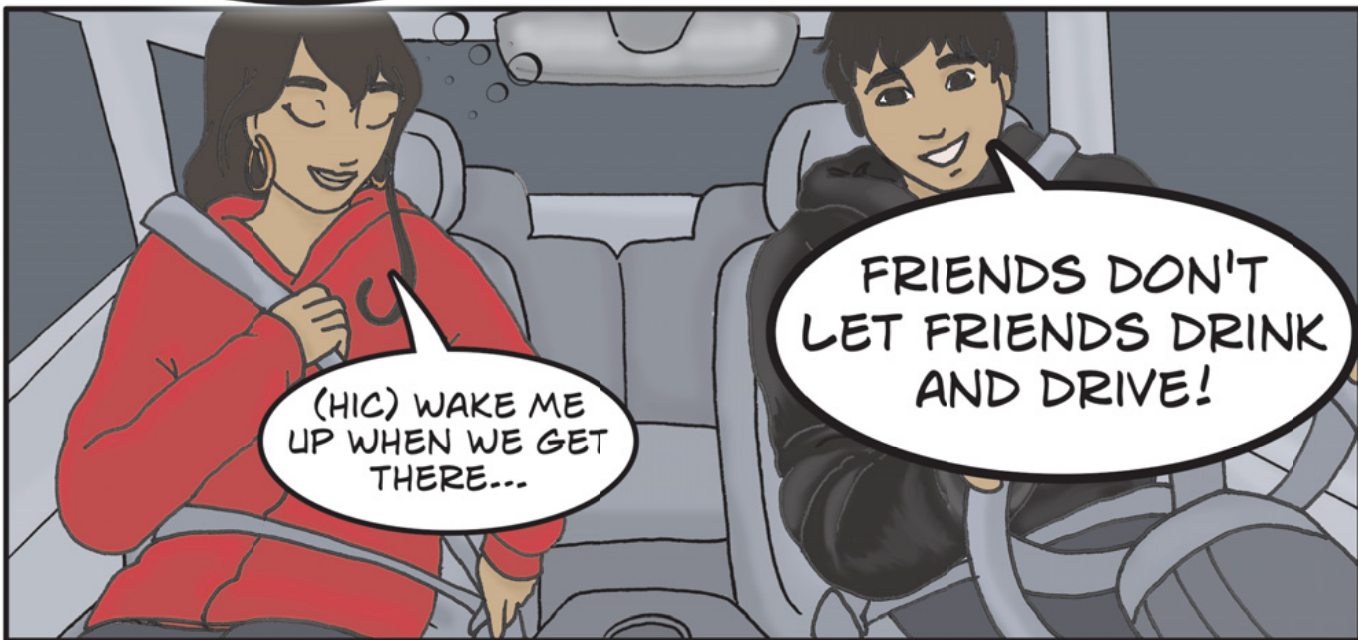
GIMME THE KEYS... I FEEL LIKE DRIVING!



NO WAY! I DIDN'T DRINK - I'LL DRIVE!



YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...



(HIC) WAKE ME UP WHEN WE GET THERE...

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRINK AND DRIVE!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPHANIE LEMBERT



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Health Board wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

Monkey business

by Will Nicholls

Chiefs from all across Canada attempt to gain access to Canada's Parliament in Ottawa. They are repulsed and try to visit the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. Again the chiefs are denied entry and there is barely a blip on the radar of the mainstream media. A chief heads to Ottawa saying she will go on a hunger strike until she can meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper to discuss her community's problems. Canada's news teams must have missed this one also as the story was difficult to find.

This is definitely a sad state that we have arrived at. Looked at in another way, however, this situation really lends itself to traditional Aboriginal use and understanding of dark humour.

It is understandable as, that same week, there was the overwhelming importance of the Ikea monkey dominating our media. How did it escape and what should we do with it? A lost child may be returned to you but not your monkey. These, after all, are more important, relevant and entertaining considerations to our national media than the plight and challenges faced by dispossessed peoples in our own country.

Yet through it all some Aboriginal nations are making a change in access to the mainstream media. Recently Grand Chief Coon Come had an Op-Ed in the Montreal Gazette. This is a rare but welcome occurrence in the Aboriginal world these days.

"This summer, my people, the James Bay Cree Nation, enacted a permanent moratorium on uranium exploration, mining, milling and waste emplacement in our territory on the east shore of James Bay, Eeyou Istchee. I was mandated to take all necessary steps to ensure full recognition of our stand," said Coon Come.

Coon Come gently slapped down the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission,

which has authorized the Matoush project. He felt Cree opposition had been ignored but held out hope saying, "Before this project can proceed, provincial authorization is also required." He added that "many concerned groups and individuals are now joining the Crees in urging the Quebec government to conduct an independent and comprehensive assessment of the long-term environmental, social and ethical challenges presented by the uranium industry."

Coon Come worries about the waste as "more than 99 tonnes of finely milled waste would be produced for every tonne of marketable product. These tailings contain over four-fifths of the radioactivity of the original ore." It is the knowledge that the tailings from the uranium mine will be radioactive and toxic for many millennia that he feels really concerns the communities. Coon Come's Gazette Op-Ed strongly said, "The Cree Nation will not be intimidated or silenced by dismissive comments like those from Dr. Binder that show so little respect for his proper role or for us. We are confident that when Quebecers learn the facts about uranium mining and waste, they will join us in our moratorium stand..."

It's a safe bet doing this type of Op-Ed for a paper like the Gazette as over 350 municipalities have come out against uranium mining and rightly so. Canada's safety record does leave something to be desired.

But I smile and wish Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat luck in getting an audience with Prime Minister Harper. Hopefully for her, they will talk over a good meal. As for all those chiefs trying to storm Parliament, I have asked Santa to bring you some brass knuckles. Maybe then more than one First Nation will have access to mainstream media. Just joking, no violence, peace on Earth for the holiday season...

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photo by:
Jim Wallace

Festive food delights

by Sonny Orr



The best thing about Christmas is all the great food that everyone produces at this time of the year. I have great respect for those who choose to cook for their family and friends for special occasions, like the festive Christmas holiday season. This year, I decided to take on the task of reproducing as many holiday foods as I can remember, and here's my list.

Firstly, shopping for all those dried fruits, figs, currants, raisins, dates, citron rinds, cherries and candied fruit takes some time. Lots of butter and sugar, eggs and some rum will do the trick when it comes to making the world's best Christmas fruitcake. Remember to soak all the fruits in rum overnight. The next day – if your body wills it – take several pounds of butter and cream, mix them with lots of sugar until fluffy, then add a dozen of eggs. The fruits should be powdered with flour.

Remember to use an extra strong wooden spoon to mix everything together. Bring some family around to make magical wishes while stirring, as this takes great physical strength. Add rum to your body if needed. Finally, put everything in the oven at a low temperature until the scent of hot rum drives you up the wall. Oh, I forgot, make this in November, as you have to let it age in the refrigerator for about a month. Don't save the rum, however, put it to good use in other recipes.

Four weeks later, take out the turkey, the moose steaks, the hams, the caribou, the beaver, the ptarmigan, the geese, the bear and the meat pies and start cooking at four in the morning. Then grab some unknowing young woman and teach her how to make the fabled boudin, as this takes about six to seven hours of preparation and cooking. Tell her that it's worth it as the 50-pound bag of gelled molasses mix and lard magically becomes extremely edible. Remember, any woman who makes good boudin is worth marrying in the New Year.

As always, the best part of the food stuff are all the sweets! The pies of many different flavours are all of them my favourite. Not to mention the cupcakes, yuletide logs, chocolates, jelly rolls and cookies. My favourites are the rum balls, which are best eaten while sitting down. These subliminal chocolate wonders are only for those who are of legal age.

Then, the night before Christmas, it's Santa's turn to get his jollies. He usually expects cookies and milk, but I add a little fortification of rum to the candied cherries I slip into the Christmas hermit cookies, so I usually get a larger present than the others. Just a little trick I learnt from years of searching for the right recipe.

Since the holidays are meant for feasting and sharing one's culinary arts, it is the thought that counts. Merry Christmas to everyone, and see you at the gym in January.

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Changing habitat

Grizzly bears moving into Nunavut

By Akiva Levitas

news

Arctic communities in Northern Canada are now facing a new problem due to the warming weather. Grizzly bears are finding their way into the communities where they historically have not been seen, causing alarm among communities and conservationists alike.

The grizzlies have been recently encountered in the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. "Elders say they never saw grizzlies in their childhood. People are pretty concerned about this new phenomenon," said Vincent L'Hérault, a doctoral student at the Université du Québec à Rimouski who is researching the situation.

L'Hérault's research into the changes happening in the North is part of a five-year collaborative project that involves 13 communities, tallymen and hunters, the government of Nunavut, as well as fellow researchers.

But climate is also pushing polar bears dangerously close to the northern communities. The problem stems from the late freezing of the ice, which forces polar bears to stay on land and to forage for food in new places. Residents have been warned not to leave dog food outside as the bears can develop a taste for it.

A problem with grizzly bears is that they are not hunted according to community quota and are not regarded as fur-bearers. Thus they are not subject to the same regulations as polar bears. When a grizzly is encountered it is killed on the grounds of human safety.

The security issues are of the greatest concern as grizzly bears are not afraid to approach humans in order to find food left at remote hunting camps, cabins and the periphery of northern communities.



Polar bears can normally be scared away by firing a gun into the air, but there is not much that frightens a grizzly. Because there is a quota on the polar bear, hunters will do more to scare off polar bears when the quota is reached.

The fur and meat of the grizzly bear are quite valued by northern communities. Its meat has the flavour of herbivores, such as caribou and moose. Conservationists are worried as grizzlies and polar bears are listed as species of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Because of the shorter cold season, grizzlies spend less time in their dens and are traveling further than they once did to look for food. Estimating an exact figure for the number of grizzlies has proven difficult for scientists. L'Hérault said in this case "sometimes

traditional ecological knowledge can be more precise than science."

Earlier this fall, a study was launched in order to determine the number of polar bears that can be sustainably harvested by Inuit hunters. There has been much international outcry over the traditional hunting of polar bears, even leading to a ban by the European Union of Baffin Bay bear parts. However, Inuit hunters claim that there are more bears than there once were and restrictions should not be placed on the traditional hunt.

The new reality for northern communities is that global warming is bringing about many economic, ecological, social and environmental changes. More studies need to be conducted to ensure the survival of the communities in Nunavut as well as of the majestic animals that make their home in the frozen tundra of the North.



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Northern shipping routes

Polar passage opens up to international traffic

news

by Akiva Levitas

History was made December 6 when a Russian tanker loaded with liquified natural gas crossed the Northern Sea Route, signaling the beginning of a new shipping lane through the North.

The new route offers plenty of advantages to large energy exporters as it saves time on transit as well as fuel and reduces the risk of piracy. With the increased traffic in the Arctic Sea come many risks to the delicate environment that has already been bearing the brunt of global warming.

With the warming of the planet and the subsequent thinning of the Arctic's ice, the Northwest Passage is being increasingly viewed as a new route in the global energy market with the possibility of seeing a tanker passing through every three days in the near future if Russia's Yamal project becomes a reality. Over the past two years, traffic in Canada's Northwest Passage has increased from 18 to 22 ships a year, whereas historically the average was two per season.

The race to establish dominance among the five Arctic nations of Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway began when a Russian expedition planted a flag at the North Pole in 2007.

The Ob River tanker left Hammerfest in northern Norway on November 7 destined for the Japanese port of Tobata. Escorted by three nuclear-powered icebreakers, the Ob River made the treacherous journey through the Northern Sea Route. The new route slashed 20 days off the regular route and cut fuel consumption by 40%.

The Ob River crew noted that most of their journey was ice-free and when they did encounter ice it was young ice, which is only 30 centimetres thick. During the voyage they made light of the fact that they saw polar bears as well as other northern wildlife. The tanker was working with the Krylovsky State

Research Centre and the Russian shipping giant Sovcomflot in order to analyze the ice for ship traffic in the Arctic Sea.

This is not the first recorded transit of the Northwest Passage. Two German vessels made the voyage in 2009. But it is the first during the winter season, thereby opening up the route to year-round transit.

The news of the transit sent shockwaves through the environmental protection agencies, as there is still much research that needs to be done in regards to shipping disasters, such as an

business." The successful journey of the Ob River will open up new potential for the expanding energy market in northern Europe and Asia.

The opening of the new route is also a sign of the shift from west to east of liquified natural gas exports. As the shale-gas discoveries in the U.S. have curbed the demand for imports in North America, Arctic nations are looking to expand in Asia where there is a rising demand for alternative fuel sources. After the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan, natural gas is being increasingly



oil spill along the line of the Exxon Valdez. Environmental groups are worried by a lack of studies to examine ways to clean up oil spills in minus-40 degree temperatures.

A spokesperson from Gazprom, the commissioner of the voyage, said, "The trip has confirmed the technical and commercial viability of the Northern Sea Route for the global liquified natural gas

seen as the most viable new energy source.

The world is changing and those who deny it need only look to the North to see the effects of a warming planet. The increased usage of the Northern Sea Route heralds a new age in shipping, bringing with it untold dangers that can have a disastrous effect on the fragile environment of the Far North.

after intense attention on the national news. Before the onset of winter, Chief Spence issued a state of emergency due to a housing crisis and appealed to the federal government for assistance.

The Conservative government blamed Attawapiskat's leadership for mismanaging funds and instituted a third-party manager to help solve the housing crisis.

Chief Spence called these past actions of the Canadian government "illegal" since no such mismanagement of funds was found in prior audits.

"Canada has since embarked on an aggressive, assimilatory legislative agenda without having first consulted, accommodated and obtained the consent of First Nations."

This call for action and recognition has been taken up by other First Nations activists. Frustration with Bill C-45, which alters the Indian Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act, and the government's reluctance to consult First Nations when crafting legislation has made Chief Spence a symbol for a new wave of First Nation activism.

Idle No More is a grassroots movement that has used social media to coordinate several protests in Canadian cities since the beginning of Chief Spence's strike.

Idle No More seeks to change government policy towards First Nations. The Idle No More manifesto contains an



Theresa Spence and supporters

photo by Reggie Tomatuk

explicit reference to the challenges that have faced Attawapiskat. "Some of the poorest First Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land, but do not get a share of the profit."

On Idle No More website features several posts encouraging people to spread the information about Chief Spence's hunger strike across Canada.

In Edmonton, members of the Samson Cree Nation blockaded a highway to show solidarity with Chief Spence. While in Toronto, a 24-hour fast was held to support Chief Spence.

The Prime Minister's Office has yet to issue a statement about these ongoing developments.

"I'm not afraid to die," said Chief Spence. "If that's the journey for me I will go and I'm looking forward to it."

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com



Political reflections and projections

The 2012 State of the Cree Nation interview with Grand Chief Coon Come

by Amy German

There is no doubt that 2012 will go down as a major year for the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee with Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come at the helm.

From the signing of the Cree Governance Agreement with the Quebec government to coming together as a unified front against the development of uranium mining, the Crees of Eastern James Bay have made headlines and turned heads as one of the most powerful First Nations in Canada and beyond.

Looking back at 2012's highs and lows and also what the future will hold, *the Nation* is once again proud to bring the Eeyouche State of the Cree Nation address straight from the mouth of Grand Chief Coon Come.

The Nation: Looking back at 2012, what has been your highest moment as leader of the Cree Nation?

Grand Chief Coon Come: The high point of this past year was the signature of our Governance Agreement with Quebec. This agreement represents a major milestone in our progressive effort to empower the Cree Nation with all the tools we need to become an effective and prosperous Aboriginal nation. Our Governance Agreement was built on the foundation of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* and the *Paix des Braves* and has resulted in further acknowledgement of the fundamental Cree principles of "consent" and "inclusion" regarding our role in the territory.

We will now exercise significant control over the planning and manage-

ment activities on our Category II lands totaling approximately 70,000 km², and we will play an important role in a new regional government which will replace the MBJ. With this agreement, we will be taking our rightful place in the governance of Eeyou Istchee and we will be playing a greater role in the way in which the future development of the territory unfolds. With this agreement, we have gone from exclusion to inclusion, from apartheid to democracy.

Over the course of nearly 40 years of hard work and difficult struggles the Cree Nation has achieved its own "quiet revolution" and has successfully made significant, and standard-setting, strides in our own process of decolonization. This was the vision from the beginning.

As this interview is intended to communicate to the people of Eeyou Istchee my views on the State of the Nation, it is appropriate to say that as a result of the Governance Agreement, the Cree Nation is on the threshold of fulfilling a very long-held vision of our become "masters of our own home". Although there is still much work to be done in a wide range of areas, we have over the course of 40 years of struggle obtained the essential tools which we will need to effectively determine the future of Eeyou Istchee. It will now be up to us to learn to use those tools wisely and to use them well.

TN: What has been the lowest or most difficult moment for you as a leader?

GC: Both as a leader and as an individual the most difficult times are when



we experience losses. I am always saddened when we have lost one of our Cree Elders. The loss of an Elder is always a tragedy for the families and for the community because of the closeness that we experience with one another in our communities. But more than that, when we lose an Elder it feels that we are losing much more than a loved one. These days, when we lose an Elder it feels that we are losing an important link with our past, and a certain link with our traditional Cree way of life. Our Elders' lives were spent almost entirely on the land, and it was the connection to the land that shaped them as individuals, shaped how they related to their families and the role they played in our communities. When an Elder passes it feels like

we are losing something that we may never see again.

I also feel deeply saddened when we lose someone, especially a youth, to suicide. As a leader, these kinds of losses are difficult reminders of how much work there is left to do and how urgent many of the issues are at the community level. These losses are reminders that we need to work even harder to have healthy individuals, families, communities and a healthy Cree Nation.

TN: *How do you feel that the Crees have fared economically this year, despite the uncertainty brought about with this most recent Quebec election?*

GC: In general, the Cree economy has performed quite well in spite of the prevailing uncertainties and fluctua-

tions in the international economy. All of our communities have experienced important economic stimulation resulting from a wide range of capital construction projects as well as an increase in administrative employment from our entities and new positions created as a result of our New Relationship Agreement with Canada.

Some of our communities are also experiencing employment and economic gains resulting from some of the activities related to mining and other resource development on our traditional territory. There will always be fluctuations depending on the economic performance of major producing and consuming countries in the world, but with the growth of countries like China, India, Brazil and others, we can expect a general increase in the



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BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR



demand for natural resources, many of which are found in Quebec, and this will translate into huge economic and employment opportunities for the Cree communities.

My personal view is that the recent election in Quebec has really not changed very much in terms of the Quebec economy. Viable projects are proceeding as before, and those that are not viable are not proceeding. All of this is happening because of economic and financial considerations and not because of the politics around provincial elections.

TN: *What was the result of your recent meeting with Quebec's new premier, Pauline Marois?*

GC: On November 19, I had an excellent meeting with Premier Marois. She stated that she looks forward to continuing to work with the Cree Nation on a nation-to-nation basis and that she would work in good faith to implement the Governance Agreement.

I mentioned several specific initiatives that the Cree Nation would like to see, including a special process to address certain health and social service issues which were not dealt with in the 2012 Health Agreement, and also, childcare services and the need for 250 childcare spaces. Marois said childcare was a priority for her. I also raised the issue of a five-year capital-funding agreement for the Cree School Board for which Marois indicated that the Ministry of Education can cover Quebec's share over five years.

In my presentation to Marois, I gave her a copy of our *Cree Vision of Plan Nord* document and explained the Cree perspective on northern development, which emphasizes respect for Cree rights, respect for the environment and community benefits. Quebec's representatives stated that both the premier and the government share the Cree philosophy.

I also discussed the uranium issue with Marois. I stated clearly the Cree position that there needs to be a permanent moratorium on uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee and I asked her to consider a special BAPE process,

which is a general Quebec-wide environmental public hearing, on the uranium industry. Marois indicated that the government is considering asking the BAPE to carry out an assessment of the uranium industry for all of Quebec, and not just the Matoush project within the Mistissini traditional territory.

All in all, the meeting was cordial, warm and positive. I invited Premier Marois to visit Eeyou Istchee, and she accepted. We will now work out the details of that visit.

TN: *What is your plan for the Cree Nation in terms of economics in 2013?*

GC: My economic plan for the next while is really three-pronged. We know that resource development in Eeyou Istchee will continue. Whether it is called "Plan Nord", "Le Nord Pour Tous" or something else, development of natural resources will continue because of the international demand for raw materials. We will be an important player in that reality provided that projects meet our test of social acceptability. If projects proceed, we will be entering into agreements which will provide benefits to our communities from that development, and there will be important gains in terms of employment, contracting, joint ventures and other economic benefits.

Secondly, we will be expanding the range of employment opportunities associated with the administration of our various entities, both locally and regionally, and there will also be employment opportunities related to our various governance initiatives.

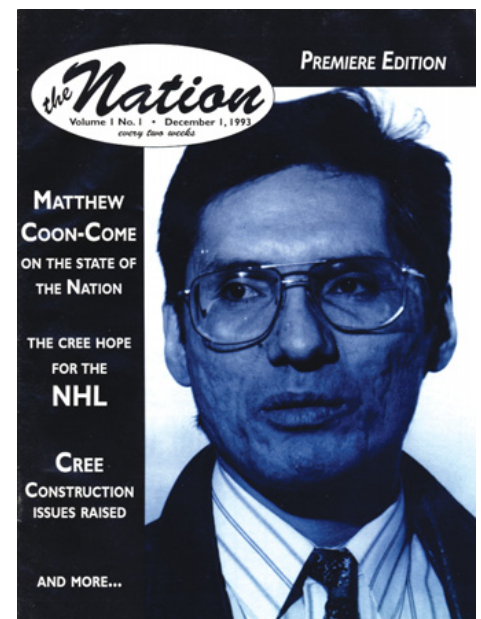
The third, and probably the most important initiative, is to focus on our Cree youth. It will be up to our Cree youth to accept the challenge of obtaining the skills, the trades and the professional development, which will be required to properly realize the potential for employment within Eeyou Istchee, and the potential for truly becoming the "masters of our own destiny". I will personally embark on an initiative to inspire our youth to rise to the challenge of their generation which is to receive the tools which we have

fought long and hard for – acknowledgement of Cree rights, acknowledgement of the requirement of Cree consent, economic development resources, governance powers – all tools which are the means by which the future of Eeyou Istchee will be in the hands of the Cree people.

TN: *What else will the Grand Council of the Crees be working on in 2013?*

GC: There are many ongoing and important initiatives that we will continue to be working on in the coming year.

One of our first priorities will be to make sure that the Governance Agreement which we signed in July will



be implemented effectively and in accordance with the spirit and letter of that agreement. I have appointed Abel Bosum to lead an implementation team to make sure this happens. Quebec, for their part, has also appointed a special representative to coordinate Quebec's work in implementing this agreement. These steps, in addition to Marois' commitment to me to work diligently to implement the Governance Agreement, make me very confident about the proper implementation of the agreement.

Since the Federal New Relationship Agreement was signed, negotiations have been taking place between the Cree Nation and Canada on a

Prosperity

Joy

Peace

Love

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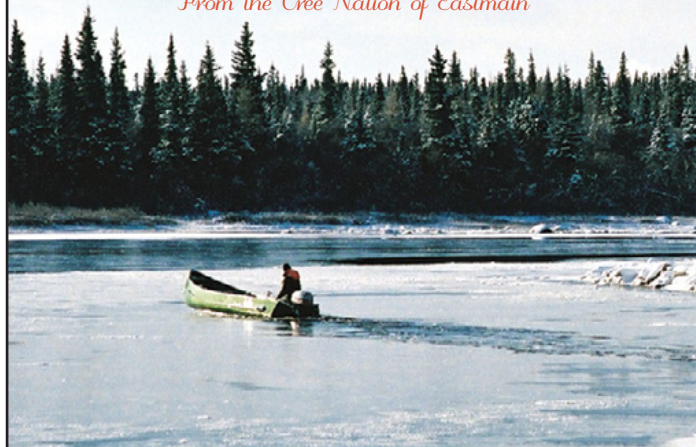


Season's Greetings to
the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee!

May the joy and peace of the holidays
be with you all through the year. Wishing you a season
of blessings from heaven above.

Happy New Year!!

From the Cree Nation of Eastmain



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Governance Agreement which deals with the increased jurisdiction and authority of the Cree Nation government with respect to our Category I lands. These important negotiations will continue.

As I mentioned earlier, youth will be a priority. I will be working closely with the Cree Youth Grand Chief to develop innovative ways of bringing the message to our youth that the future is in their hands and they need to step up to the plate.

The issue of uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee is one which will require our continued vigilance. We will not settle for anything less than a permanent moratorium on uranium mining in our traditional territory and we will actively oppose such projects as well as any government initiatives which attempt to facilitate such projects. We have mounted campaigns in the past against projects which have not met our standards for social acceptability and we have been successful. If necessary, we will do so again.

But we are not now, nor have we ever been, anti-development. There will certainly be projects within Eeyou Istchee which are socially acceptable and we will work closely with the proponents of such projects to discuss how to facilitate these projects and how our communities can benefit from them. In the case of mining, we will continue to be involved in pre-development agreements and impact benefits agreements. We have been actively involved in such agreements in the case of the Eleonore Mine near Wemindji, the BlackRock project near Oujé-Bougoumou and the Stornoway project near Mistissini. There will no doubt be others in the near future.

We also have work to do on the issue of protected areas. We are now working on a regional protected areas and conservation strategy which focuses on the protection of the Cree way of life in Eeyou Istchee. When completed, we will table this with the Quebec government and have discussions with them on our approach and its relation-



ship to their policies and initiatives with respect to protected areas. This will be an ongoing issue for us.

The Cree Nation has also tabled with the Quebec government a proposed action plan to protect the woodland caribou. It has thus far been difficult to obtain a reaction from Quebec on this issue, but we intend to continue raising this matter at the appropriate levels of government until we see tangible measures put in place to protect this endangered species.

Although I raised the issue of Cree childcare services with the premier, we will continue to work on this. The Cree-Quebec Childcare Services Agreement has been extended six times since September 2009. The continued provision of childcare services in the Cree communities requires a new agreement that provides stable and sufficient long-term funding. We will be working to secure a multi-year funding agreement, similar to those for the Cree School Board and the Cree Health Board.

So, we have a lot on our plate and there is much to do – and it is all important.

TN: *This being an election year, will you be seeking reelection?*

GC: As a result of our efforts over the last three years with respect to several important initiatives, it will be important to maintain consistent momentum and follow-up. We have achieved historic gains in the area of governance and the way in which we carry through on the implementation of our agreement will be crucial to the success of this initiative. I have specifically worked to develop a sound working relationship with Marois to ensure that this happens.

Also, I have a deep personal interest in ensuring that the message to our youth goes out clearly to them. We will need their energies, their engagement and their commitment to contribute to the building of the Cree Nation. This will be a priority for me.

The issue of a permanent moratorium on uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee is a major one which speaks not only to issues of health, environmental protection and security of our people, but it also speaks to the fundamental principle of “social acceptability” of development projects and the principle of Cree consent. If necessary, I feel committed to waging a campaign to protect Cree rights around this issue.

There are other issues we have worked on over the past three years which will require careful monitoring and interventions.

For all these reasons, and having discussed the matter with my family who has supported my decision, I will make myself available to serve once more as Grand Chief of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee.

As a final remark, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the people of Eeyou Istchee, to the employees of our various Cree entities, and to our friends and colleagues, for a very Merry Christmas, a very Happy Holiday season, and all the best in the New Year.



**• HUNTING • FISHING •
• GENERAL STORE •**

**To all in Eeyou Istchee
a Merry Christmas & Season's Greetings**

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Les Diamants Stornoway (Canada) Inc. and the Mistissini Economic Development Department are pleased to invite you to a general information meeting on the services that will be required for the construction phase of the Renard Diamond Mine Project, North of the Otish Mountains.

Date : Thursday - January 17, 2013

Time : 13:30 to 15:00

Place : Conference rooms of the Mistissini Lodge
24 Amisk Street, Mistissini

Do not miss this special opportunity to meet, Mr. Yves Perron, Vice-president Engineering & Construction of Les Diamants Stornoway.

For more information

Economic Development Department
Cree Nation of Mistissini
Margaret Wapachee : (418) 923-3461
Economic Development
Coordinator

Les Diamants Stornoway (Canada) Inc.
Patrick Houle : (418) 770-6387
Manager, Community Relations
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Resolutions for the new year

Members of the Eeyou Istchee leadership voice their 2013 aspirations

by Amy German

As the world revels in the season's celebrations, much of the Cree Nation's leadership is already thinking about 2013.

To get a glimpse of what is to come in the New Year, *the Nation* spoke to the powers that be to see what was on their minds and what their areas of focus would be in 2013.

Whether it's about being positive and encouraging the people to be their best, focusing on social issues, building up the local and regional economy or rebuilding a community from the ground up, the responses varied tremendously. Whether their aspirations were tall or small, they all serve as a source for inspiration as it is from this that the course of the next year will be forged in Eeyou Istchee.

Each person was asked the following three questions:

- 1) What is your resolution for your community, entity or organization?
- 2) Why have you chosen this as your focus?
- 3) How do you intend to carry that out?

And here are their responses.

Chief Reggie Neeposh Oujé-Bougoumou

The community of Oujé-Bougoumou has achieved many outstanding accomplishments over the years. We can never, though, rest on our laurels. There are always new challenges, new opportunities and still old problems that haven't been addressed as successfully as we would like. My resolution for Oujé-Bougoumou is that we approach our current circumstances and our future challenges with the same spirit of innovation, the same spirit of unity and the same spirit of optimism and faith which characterized our struggle to have our rights recognized and the same spirit which guided the planning and construction of our village.

I have chosen this focus because I never want to see our people become complacent. There will always be new challenges for our community and for the other Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee. Right now, there is a challenge before the Cree Nation, which will define this current generation of leaders. We have the opportunity before us of becoming the major economic and political force in northern Quebec. This will require a serious initiative on the part of the Cree Nation and its current leaders in order to take advantage of this opportunity and to fulfill our Nation's long-held dream. The challenge currently before us may be the greatest challenge we have faced so far. I never want to see our people lose the spirit required to successfully rise to this challenge. The stakes are too high.



Reggie Neeposh, Chief of Oujé-Bougoumou

Locally, we have taken important measures to improve the way in which our organization achieves its objectives. We have done this by giving a greater role to the elected officials in Oujé-Bougoumou, the council, in ensuring that community objectives, and council mandates, are effectively being implemented. We are trying to find ways to introduce a greater degree of responsibility at every level in our organization. Our hope is that if we can instill more effective skills in implementing objectives, then it will be easier to address the larger challenges facing us as well. We are also trying to hold on to, and to rekindle, the sense of community spirit, which brought us to where we are. And finally, we are trying to identify ways of inspiring our youth to become active participants in the life of our community so that we can have their energies utilized in useful and productive ways. Our community needs our youth, and so does the Cree Nation.

Chief Rodney Mark Wemindji

To be a kickass awesome community!

Why:

We are born awesome; life is awesome. Therefore we should live and create a kickass community.

- We want to build awesome people.
- We want to build awesome businesses.
- We want to attract awesome business investment.
- We want to attract awesome people to live here.
- We want an awesome place to raise children and families.

How:

- Kickass respectful attitude.
- Kickass responsibilities and wise financial management



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From our hearts to yours

May the New Year fulfill its promise of good health, prosperity, accomplishment and good will.

Join us throughout 2012 as we pursue our mission of liaison, cultural sharing and community growth for and with the urban Aboriginal community.

Together, we make a difference. Meegwich for being a vital part of it all!

*The Board and staff of
the Chibougamau Eenu
Friendship Centre*



Assembly of the First Nations
of Quebec and Labrador
Assemblée des Premières Nations
du Québec et du Labrador



Au nom de tous les chefs des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador, nous vous souhaitons de passer d'agréables fêtes de fin d'année. Que 2013 vous apporte santé, bonheur et prospérité dans tout ce que vous entreprenez.

On behalf of all Quebec and Labrador's First Nations' Chiefs, we wish you happy holidays and a wonderful New Year. May 2013 bring health, happiness and prosperity in all of your undertakings.

Chef Ghislain Picard, les grands chefs et les chefs de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador

Chief Ghislain Picard, the Grand Chiefs and the Chiefs of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

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*May your home be filled
with the joy of family
and friends now and
throughout the new
year.*



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Wemendji Chief Rodney Mark

- Have an awesome clean and beautiful community
- Have an awesome safe and secure community

Have an awesome holiday and kick-ass New Year from all of us in Wemindji.

Be cool, be kind, be silly, be awesome. Life is precious.

Chief Edward Gilpin Eastmain

The resolution for the coming year will be to focus on social issues. One example is to continue working local committees, local entities and our regional and local police force to find ways to get rid of the drugs and control the sale of alcohol to minors. Our children are paying the price. Wishing you people who work at *the Nation* a very Merry Christmas.

Dianne Reid President of Aanischaaukamikw

I wish all the best of family life for my community of Waswanipi (Light on the Water). May that light shine upon Eeyouch of Eeyou Istchee. I am eternally grateful for the staff of Aanischaaukamikw, may they walk with great pride for their wonderful work.

May our prayers be constant for the work that they do for Eeyou heritage,

culture and language. May they receive abundance and support as they carry the banner of cultural heritage on behalf of the Cree Nation.

The Elders of the Cree Nation gave me the mandate to finish Aanischaaukamikw and share their vision. It is as a collective that we can be an active supporter to gather our stories, history and preserve our heritage.

The best way is to create activities that portray a living culture. And the richness of skills, knowledge of our storytellers, artists and, most importantly, the wisdom of our Elders through oral history. Gather Elders, youth, women and men to share with one another and pass on traditional knowledge to the next generation... Aanischa! Strengthen the network to the communities and the cultural coordinators (community outreach). Play a part for the Circle of the Cree Nation to be whole again.

Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff Cree Nation Youth Council

The Cree Nation Youth Council is now stepping into its 28th year of existence! As Youth Grand Chief, I fully recognize,

respect and honour the progress achieved in the last 27 years for Cree youth to be fully integrated and involved in the political processes and decisions that affect all Cree youth. We have learned much and our vision is clearer today than before. We will be all the more proactive at every opportunity to excel. We will collectively design our role and place in the future of our Cree Nation. We will develop strategic action plans that will propel us to operate in the inheritance that our former Cree leaders, parents and Elders have gifted us with.

We are better positioned today than yesterday to assume increased roles and mandate, therefore we will support every Cree youth vision and encourage and ensure their voice is heard. We will increase our capacity to complement the successes of the past and cooperate with the hopes and dreams of our Cree Nation. We will run after every positive change we see, especially those that breathe life to all Cree youth. We will work with the accomplishments of many Cree young adults who are trained, educated and who are more than ready but capable to preserve, promote and enhance our Cree Nation values and principles. We will network



Joshua Iserhoff is in there somewhere



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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**Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year to all.**

[illegible]

with all Cree stakeholders necessary to advance our shared and common vision of a brighter future for our Cree Nation. We will succeed!

Cree youth today represent 69% of the electorate of the Cree Nation. Cree youth are best positioned to address the challenges that face Cree youth in creative and innovative ways. We are the leaders of tomorrow and we will lead sooner than later. Cree youth cannot afford to be on the fringes looking in, complaining of not being included, not recognized, or not consulted – we have come this far and yes, and we can do more. With unwavering faith, conviction and determination – we have to succeed. We have no choice – we have to hold on to our dreams for a better tomorrow. We cannot give up and lose hope. As Cree youth, we have to have reverence for life and, we have to run with a fresh vision and mission to achieve all our dreams.

One thing is certain: we cannot work in isolation with other Cree leaders, parents and Elders. The Cree Nation Youth Council will have to work all the more to identify practical measures necessary to address every challenge and move forward. We will have to set in place specific short-term and long-term goals with clear benchmarks to gauge progress and success. We will have to face the challenges that are before us by increasing our activity in hosting conferences, summits and youth leadership capacity initiatives. We have to be all the more involved as future leaders.

We will have to work harder and strategically together with our Cree Elders and Cree advisors. We will have to listen to each other all the more. We will have to build upon the successes of our Cree Nation, our communities and our people. We will have to bring Elders, parents and leaders together with the youth with a strategic purpose of sharing life-giving stories of hope and life. We will have to rediscover the strength in our people and we will have to encourage all Cree youth to rise above the various challenges of today.

We will do our part to give life to these dreams, hopes and visions of a better future for our Cree Nation. We will

do more and we will do better! We will succeed! Wait, watch and expect an exciting New Year in 2013!

Chief Paul Gull Waswanipi

Waswanipi has a rapidly growing population; our team's resolution is to focus on new and emerging trends in economic development that would increase employment opportunities for our community.

Our statistics indicate that 11% of the youth population will be reaching the age of the majority and we intend to prepare meeting the needs of this upcoming workforce.

Our first priority is to encourage all youth to complete post-secondary studies, the education path has the greatest long-term benefit for youth. We aim to create a skilled, diverse and qualified workforce. I believe through this process the community will benefit from entrepreneurship as a key method for the development and strengthening of Waswanipi's local economy.

Our organization is always looking for new economic growth opportunities that are sustainable; presently we are focusing on identifying and researching new innovations in employment and various markets that could potentially benefit the community.

Chief Stanley George Whapmagoostui

A glimpse of my vision for 2013, together with the Whapmagoostui council and administration, we will.....

1) Continue to implement the Remedial Financial Action Plan by updating the community on the challenges and issues we have to address to correct the deficit and eliminate it for the sake of our children and their children.

2) Address the housing issues by encouraging home ownerships through the "rent-to-own" program and by building energy-efficient homes that meet northern climate standards. We expect to build four to six units in 2013 and host the first-ever local housing forum that will bring awareness to our



Chief Paul Gull of Waswanipi

members on the real issues and challenges.

3) Inject funds into cultural, Elder, social, recreation and youth development projects.

4) Build a community playground.

5) Community landscaping and community restoration project will be continued.

6) Rebuild the community's youth centre.

7) Create Whapmagoostui's own and centralized economy by operating our own convenience store, a restaurant and a construction company with rock crushing, excavation and drilling-blasting expertise. We expect this will bring wealth of opportunities, such as employment, training, lower food costs and incentives to all members to participate in ensuring long-term food security and jobs for the community. Cree ownership, Cree employment and Cree effort = capacity development and empowerment.

8) Upgrade and lease a new fleet of heavy machinery and equipment for the Whapmagoostui Development Corporation.

9) Purchase a hunting and fishing vessel that will serve hunters and fishers.

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Northern Store
Mocreebec

Nemaska

Nemaska Motel and Restaurant
Nemaska Sports & Recreation Complex
General Store
Deputy Grand Chief's Office

Ouje-Bougoumou

KC Gas Bar
Ouje-Bougoumou Band

Senneterre

Native Friendship Centre

Timmins

Air Creebec Inc.

Val D'Or

Air Creebec
Friendship Centre
Cree Patient Services
UQAT
Quality Inn & Suites

Waskaganish

Transarctic Petroleum

Waswanipi

Waswanipi Grocery Store

Wemindji

Sam's Video and Coffee Shop
Northern Stores

Whapmagoostui

Whapmagoostui Band
Northern Store

**The team at *the Nation*
would like to wish you all
a happy holiday season &
a New Year brimming with
peace, joy and prosperity.**

***Very special
thanks to Air Creebec***

10) Renovate the exterior and interior of 20 social housing units in which all Cree local contractors will reap the benefits and ensure adequate housing is a top priority.

11) Ensure that our hunters/trappers subsidy program is equal and fair to all.

12) Purchase a 28-seat bus for the community's participation in tournaments, festivals, gatherings and meetings.

As a leader, around this time of the year, I like to reflect on the past and use this as a guiding principle to bring more transparency and to ensure sound decisions are made as the top priority for the next year within my council. Despite many challenges and difficulties in 2012, just as the world keeps turning, the rivers and winds continue to flow, we must become like these natural elements; look ahead, move forward and keep on rolling in order to achieve economic and social prosperity for our people.

A new year brings many blessings and endless opportunities. I remain optimistic that I can build meaningful employment and training opportunities that will lead to capacity development and empowerment for the people I so humbly serve. Ultimately, in the long run, this path will define our freedom to our own destiny and build a solid foundation for our children.

As a community, we always find ways to advance and improve. We will rise to any challenge. We will find ways to bring more jobs and encourage local business people to pursue their aspirations.

Since 2006, we have been under close scrutiny with our past financial spendings that led to an accumulated deficit until 2010 when we had to deal with harsh realities and put ourselves under a strict Remedial Management Plan. This plan is basically our five-year community business plan.

Despite the barriers, we will focus on centralizing economic activities and encouraging positive spinoffs for local entrepreneurs right in Whapmagoostui's central and potential business district. Jobs create social responsibilities, concrete family obligations and a sound economy that will build a healthy and prosperous community.

At this time, I would like to wish everyone all the best during the holidays and may all of you receive great blessing from Chisamanitou for 2013.

Kathleen Wooten **Chair of the Cree School Board**

My resolution for the 2013 is to lead the team of Commissioners in continuing with the change process which the Cree School Board launched in 2008. With the adoption of the Cree Governance Model in 2010, the Council of Commissioners now governs Cree education according to the 10 principles of Policy Governance. The Chairperson and Commissioners now govern with an outward vision, set clear purpose and priorities, and set clear responsibilities and roles for the council and the director general.

The first principle of Policy Governance is to establish a strong relationship with the ownership, or as some may say, the stakeholders. The Council has begun the process of connecting with the Cree Nation through its Ownership Linkage Plan.

The Ownership Linkage is the process to help the Council gather information through various means, that is, meetings with different Cree organizations or entities. The Ownership Linkage process gives the members of the Cree Nation – whether through the various Cree entities, organizations, associations or communities – the opportunities to discuss with the Council their educational concerns, issues and expectations. This Ownership Linkage Plan will help the Council to be better informed of what the Cree Nation expects from the Cree School Board, its own Cree Nation's education system. The information gathered from these meetings will assist the Council to know whether the Ends policies it set in its policy manual actually reflect what the Cree Nation expects of the Cree School Board. In other words, are we meeting the educational needs of the Cree students, both the youth and adult students? This information will also help the Council in its effort to

review the Cree component of Cree education.

By developing the Linkage Plan, the Council has set a tentative schedule of the various organizations, entities and communities with whom it wants to meet. The Council developed a set of questions which it forwards to each entity prior to a meeting. Based on the information gathered from these questions and the discussions from these meetings, the Council then assesses the data from each meeting. At the end of the school year, the Council will review its Ends policies and assess whether it needs to amend, delete or add a new Ends policies based on the data it gathered from its Ownership Linkage meetings. This is to ensure that the Cree School's purpose and direction reflect the expectations of the Cree Nation. This way, the Council can govern Cree Education with proactivity rather than reactivity.

Luke Macleod **James Bay Cree Communications Society**

Continue working on the preservation of our language as we are slowly losing it. Radio has a lot of influence and working with our Elders to ensure proper Cree is used daily on the airwaves will help.

Jack Blacksmith **CREECO/ Board of Compensation**

Among the members of the Board of Compensation (BOC) there is an understanding that the capital monies of the original signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, a fund that totals in the neighbourhood of \$136 million, will always and forever be there for the Cree people.

We have done very well with this over the last 30-odd years. The total has now grown to about \$151 million and so we are beyond what it was originally. And it is this high even though we have spent approximately \$230 million of the interest of that over the course of many years and over all of the entities and communities.

By resolution the funds are to stay within that understanding of all of the

board members that we will always keep the capital monies intact and so my basic principle is that we remain within that amount and spend what revenues we have with the BOC for the general benefit of the communities through their projects, programs and services as well as some of the administrative costs of the entities.

We do not attempt or ever say that we are going to cover 100% of the requests that people make, but we do try to assist as many entities and communities as we can in terms of their various programs that they develop on their own.

So, the principle of my resolution is to keep the capital where it is. How we are going to do that and why we have chosen to focus on this is because the BOC was created by the JBNQA as an entity with a wide-open mandate. It is our own entity and we do not have any requirements by any government or bodies to tell us what to do with that money.

We are the sole decision-makers of this money, now and for the future. The

Cree are the ones who decide how we will distribute this money and, most importantly, how to invest this money in terms of the various instruments that are available to us to try and grow this money as much as possible.

Taking into consideration all of the situations regarding these investments, especially the risks that are involved, we still need to look at our situation and say that we have to protect that money and that capital and move forward from there.

This is our primary focus and I am going to do this by listening to my board members. I talk to them individually and I ask them questions, and I really work with my executives and my investment committee. We make everyone understand what it is that we are doing and how we are doing it. We also have a financial consultant in place and we use him every time we meet. He is in between the executive and investment committee, and we use him to advise us as to where we should go.



Jack Blacksmith of CRECO/BOC

For me to be able to do that I have to be able to work with my board members, my executive and my investment committee to determine exactly what kinds of investments are good for us.

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- Session: The Duty to Consult: Evolutions, experiences and lessons learned – *Tuesday March 5*
- Session: Examining company-community agreements in the mineral sector – *Tuesday March 5*



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Don Burnstick, a special guest with Shadrock



Warrior Pryde from Chisasibi

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photos by Tera Diamond

Dallas Arcand



DDK Krew Dancers from Nemaska



Mariame Hasni, one of the special guests



KASP with Master of Ceremonies Gabriel Herodier



Washeskun drummers from Waswanipi

Increasing business

Val-d'Or's Business Exchange Day showcased commercial developments in Eeyou Istchee

by Jesse Staniforth

The first week of December saw the 10th edition of Business Exchange Day return to Val-d'Or. The event, organized by the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance in collaboration with ComaxAT/ComaxNord, brought together over 165 companies and organizations, including representatives from every one of the nations of Eeyou Istchee as well as all regional municipalities of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and James Bay.

The name of the game, as always, was making business happen, and to that end the event organized over 800 “matchmaking” appointments (known as B2B, or Business-to-Business, meetings). The B2B meet-ups allowed businesspeople and officials from different companies, organizations and governments around the North to explore possibilities for working together to mutual advantage.

Representing more than 35 communities, 350 businesspeople set about to make new acquaintances and explore possibilities for business growth in Cree communities as well as other communities of the region.

In his opening address, former Grand Chief Ted Moses said, “The business matchmaking meetings position this event as an economic development lever for companies and organizations to establish strategic partnerships, [as well as] commercial, financial and technological alliances with the Cree communities.”

Noting that surveys had shown over the years that many businesspeople found Business Exchange Day the most efficient way of doing business with the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, Moses added that 75% of the companies present from the James Bay and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions said they had



made new business contacts with Cree representatives at previous Exchange Days. Likewise, 87% of the Cree organizations present said that previous Exchange Days had provided them with new contacts both with other Cree representatives and with organizations from outside of Eeyou Istchee.

Val-d'Or Mayor Fernand Trahan, in his address to the conference, underlined the centrality of the relationship with communities of the North to Val-d'Or's economic health.

“More than 23% of Val-d'Or's economy comes from northern Quebec, Nunavik and Nunavut,” said Trahan, noting for example Val-d'Or's Northern Mining Transit Centre, which organizes transport and logistics for mining companies working in the North and has transported over 1,000 workers to northern mining camps.

Later in the day, Moses spoke at length about the importance of part-

nership in the world of Cree business. As representatives of the Grand Council often do, Moses underlined that any belief that the Crees are opposed to development is mistaken. Echoing the words of Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff on numerous occasions, Moses said, “Let me be clear, the Crees are open for business, provided that it respects our rights and the environment and produces real benefits for our people. We are willing partners.”

In his speech, however, Moses laid out the important specifics of what partnership requires. Beginning with the assertion that the 400,000 square kilometres of Eeyou Istchee are “fully occupied, used and managed by the Crees,” he went on to explain that, “Cree expectations with respect to Northern Development [are...] wealth creation, through direct investments, contracts and employment; we are looking to

accelerate job creation for the Crees through the development of a Cree technical, professional and managerial workforce and [development in the region] must provide a fair share of well-paid jobs to the Cree.”

For these reasons, Moses spoke about the business relationships between Crees and those outside the Eeyou Istchee specifically as “partnerships”.

“Partnership is a form of agreement,” he underlined. “Two parties come to work together to create something and they most often realize that, together, they are stronger. Rights are the backdrop to partnership as in situations of rapid culture change each party brings something to the table in forming a partnership.

“To be clear,” Moses continued, “our position is that no mining developments may occur in Eeyou Istchee unless they are socially acceptable to the Cree communities, as demonstrated by the conclusion of agreements with our communities. The Cree must be active partners, not just passive bystanders, in these developments. Development of the North must benefit the North and its inhabitants, Crees and Jamésians.”

To prove that these safeguards have not hurt the thriving mining industry in Eeyou Istchee, Moses went on to discuss six examples of recent mining partnerships, including Goldcorp’s Eleonore gold project. The agreement that brought about the Eleonore project was, he said, “a vivid example of an arrangement whereby, with the participation of the Cree, mining development can take place and prosper in Eeyou Istchee in a spirit of genuine partnership. This agreement sets the new standard for mining proponents seeking to operate in Eeyou Istchee.”

But there was more than mining being discussed at Business Exchange Day. The same week as Canadian national news was lit up with discussion of the \$15-billion takeover of Canadian oil company Nexen by Chinese state-owned company, Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation, Whapmagoostui chose the Exchange Day to announce a Joint Venture Agreement with Chinese state-owned



company Guodian United Power to replace the Whapmagoostui/Kuujuarapik diesel Hydro-Québec power plant with a hybrid-energy system.

Key players from Whapmagoostui’s leadership first encountered representatives from Guodian United Power at the Quebec Wind Energy Conference in Gaspésie, which led to the opening of discussions between the two groups.

Following the news last year that Hydro-Québec planned to replace the plant’s diesel generators, Whapmagoostui formed Nimschu-Iskudow Inc. (a 100% Cree-owned subsidiary) to assemble a proposal to develop renewable technology, drawing on technology and expertise from both Quebec and China. The project, developed by a team of engineers and other experts drawn both from Guodian and other Quebec companies, will develop a replacement energy system for Whapmagoostui/Kuujuarapik powered by wind, biomass and other resources, one of which will continue to be diesel fuel. However, the project will reduce the plant’s annual diesel consumption by 3-million litres, or 80%, offering in its place 4.5 MW in wind energy and 1 MW in biomass per year.

“The current strategy involves doing away with diesel power sources in the North and moving towards a hybrid energy system. The Grand Council of the Crees has given us their support and

we are currently discussing the participation of the Inuit of Kuujuarapik in collaboration with the intent to share this technology with other isolated First Nation communities in Quebec and beyond,” said Whapmagoostui Chief Stanley George.

There has also been interest from Innu nations in participating in the project, as their territory demands 300 MW of diesel power.

Whapmagoostui will own the project, which is expected to create employment for 280 people during construction, and 30 permanent jobs on completion. The projected cost for the undertaking is \$60 million.

Former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash is now Nimschu-Iskudow’s president, and went to China in October to sign the agreement. In the press release announcing the joint venture, Mukash said, “With this initiative, the Cree community has taken a major step forward in bringing more clean energy to the North. We have also made history by entering into a partnership with a Chinese state-owned company such as Guodian United Power.”

In all, the 10th Business Exchange Day showcased Eeyou Istchee as a hotbed of economic activity and development, which its organizers hoped it would help multiply through the possibility of many new partnerships.

CREE HOCKEY NEWS & NOTES

Record breaker

Over 80 teams compete in Cree hockey and broomball tourney

by Daniel Coyle

The 32nd Annual Cree Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament took place in Val-d'Or, Senneterre and Barraute December 6-9, and this year it was a record breaker. An all-time high of 83 teams took part, competing in five hockey categories and two broomball categories for prize money totalling over \$100,000.

In the Class A Hockey Division, the Moose Factory Scrappers returned after being away for a year, and they did not disappoint, going undefeated throughout the tournament to once again bring home the championship banner. In the final, the Scrappers knocked off a tough Algonquin Raging Bulls squad by a score of 4-2, on the strength of two goals by tournament MVP Carlo Metatawabin, with an insurance marker added by Thomas Moore, who also led the tourney in scoring with six goals and two assists.

The Class B1 Hockey final saw a showdown between two undefeated teams, each of which reached the final playing very different hockey. The Waswanipi Drummers romped their way to the final, scoring a tournament-high 23 goals, including first-round blowouts of Nemaska, Washaw Siibi and Oujé-Bougoumou. In fact, the Drummers did not give up a goal in the playoff round until they faced the Pikogan Maikan, who reached the final playing tight, low-scoring hockey. Pikogan's discipline paid off, as they jumped out to an early 3-0 over Waswanipi, hanging on for a 3-2 victory and championship honours.

Cedric Boutin of Pikogan took home Class B1 MVP honours, while Jonathan Gauthier of the Manawan Jets led all scorers with three goals and six assists for nine points.

The Class B2 Hockey Category included an amazing 18 teams this year, with eight teams moving on to the playoff round, including five teams that entered the playoffs undefeated. The

2012 Class A Hockey Champs - Moose Factory Scrappers



2012 Open Broomball Champs - Waskaganish Starlites

final was a surprisingly low-scoring affair between two high-scoring clubs, the Winneway Hawks and Lac Simon Team2. Lac Simon eliminated an early Hawks lead, coming from behind to claim the Class B2 banner by a score of 3-1.

While it was Winneway and Lac Simon Team2 that filled the net throughout the tourney, the leading scorer in Class B2 was Steven Boudrias of the Whapmagoostui Whalers, with eight goals and two assists. MVP honours were claimed by Charlot Penosway of Lac Simon.

Nine teams battled for supremacy in the Old Timers Hockey Division, with the final game again being a match-up of



“THE LADY WOLVES HAD THEIR STRUGGLES IN THE QUALIFYING ROUND, BUT CAME ON STRONG WITH SCRAPPY WINS OVER TEAMS FROM WASKAGANISH AND MISTISSINI TO MAKE IT TO THE FINAL.”



Lac Simon Lakers - Recreational Broomball Champs

undefeated teams. Mistissini enjoyed a fairly road to the final, but it was a local squad of Val-d'Or Old Timers that claimed the championship banner with a 4-0 victory over Mistissini.

Another Moore from Moose Factory – this time Jeff Moore – led all Old Timers in scoring with nine goals and three assists, while Val-d'Or's Tommy Paradis was named tournament MVP.

In Women's Hockey, it was another local team, the Val-d'Or Power, that took home top honours, as they won in convincing fashion, defeating the Wemindji Lady Wolves by a score of 7-1. It was a tough loss for the Lady Wolves, who had their struggles in the qualifying round, but came on strong with scrappy wins over teams from Waskaganish and Mistissini to make it to the final.

Sara Morrison, who last season played with University of Ottawa after a season in the NCAA, took home Top Defenceman honours for the Lady Wolves. However, other categories were dominated by the Val-d'Or Power, as Manon Deschesne led all women in scoring with seven points, and Belinda Dumont, who scored two goals and an assist in the final, was named Womens Hockey MVP.

In Open Women's Broomball, the Waskaganish Starlites continue to show why they are among the best teams in the game, as they outscored their opponents by a combined 23-3 en route to a low-scoring victory in the final over the Wemindji Ice Stars, taking home the banner by a score of 2-1.

Not surprisingly, the Starlites and Ice Stars split the tournament honours, with the Starlites' Martina Cowboy being named MVP and Wemindji's Monica Visitor leading all scorers with four goals and five assists. Waskaganish's Elizabeth Hester and Elaine Hester were named Best Forward and Best Goalie, respectively, while Wemindji's Roxanne Hughboy took home Best Defenceman honours.

In Women's Recreational Broomball, the Lac Simon Lakers played Cinderella, recovering from a winless qualifying round in the tournament. Entering the playoffs as a long-shot seventh seed, the Lakers cranked out three straight wins, knocking off the first place Kitcisakik Ice Queens in the final by a score of 2-1.

Nancy Papatie led the way for the Lakers, taking home both Top Scorer and MVP awards, in addition to the Lakers' championship banner.

by Lyle Stewart

Taking the long view

The omens are bad, but life is stubborn

If you're reading this, the world did not end December 21, as some doomsday crackpots and deluded hippies believe was predicted by the Mayan long-count calendar.

That doesn't mean 2012, as a year, didn't deserve to die. In many ways, this does feel like the end times. Politically, socially, economically, and above all, environmentally, we are hurtling toward self-destruction.

Since winning their coveted majority in 2011, the federal Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has trampled Canadian democracy in a festival of contempt for parliamentary traditions and transparency.

With the two omnibus bills passed in 2012, the Tories weakened or cut hundreds of laws and programs that protect our precious waterways, safeguard the rights of working people, support low-income earners and ensure the checks and balances that are vital to a healthy democracy.

While programs to nurture innovation and knowledge industries are slashed, the oil industry is given a free hand to poison our environment and hasten global warming. Now, Harper is allowing China's totalitarian dictatorship to buy up the Alberta oil sands, and to import their own low-paid workforce to boot. In this, as in so many other areas, the Conservatives are on the wrong side of history.

For instance, just as the government announced it will further ease gun-ownership rules in Canada, a troubled young man in Newport, Connecticut, takes an automatic rifle on a shooting spree at an elementary school. This time, the Americans' cherished right to bear military assault weapons claimed the lives of 20 six-year-olds and six adults. It's the

31st school massacre in the U.S. since the Columbine shooting in April 1999.

I know many Cree are strong opponents of gun control. But I find it hard to understand why the American gun lobby can so easily buy off or intimidate Congress to such a degree that prevents a minimum of controls on access to this kind of needless firepower. Nonetheless, this is where our government wants to take us.



So that's where we find ourselves at the end of 2012: with a society based on secrecy, protection for foreign economic interests over our own rights and economic health, and facing a mindless but determined operation to eliminate democratic safeguards.

Thankfully, democracy is a hard thing to kill. We have heroes willing to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the common good. Heroes such as Attiwapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who is waging an indefinite hunger strike until Prime Minister Harper will finally deign to hear her well-founded concerns for the health of her people.

Harper has time to meet Justin Bieber for a photo op, but for the leader of a desperately impoverished Canadian community? He can't find a slot in his daytimer.

I cling to optimism, however. The overwhelming moral advantage that Chief Spence wields against the petulant nastiness of the Harper regime makes her a source of inspiration, and of hope.



Likewise, the historic student mobilization of the spring and summer in Quebec against an implacable foe and almost uniform media contempt and ridicule is cause for celebration. Former Premier Jean Charest tried to exploit the student resistance to tuition hikes in a desperate gamble to cling to power by posing as the defender of social order in the September election, despite the flagrant corruption of his Liberal government.

The students' victory was more than a simple financial calculation in preventing tuition hikes. Current students would barely have been affected. Rather, they fought for an incredibly important principle of preserving access to higher education for future students, no matter the income of their parents.

For his troubles, the powers that be are trying to bludgeon student leader Daniel Nadeau-Dubois with a legal club; he's been convicted of contempt of court for having publicly defended the right of students to be politically active, though he will almost certainly be acquitted on appeal. For his sacrifice on our children's behalf, I also salute Nadeau-Dubois as a hero of 2012.

So, despite the ominous portents we face, I have reason to look forward to 2013 with renewed confidence. History is not over. Indeed, the Mayan long-count calendar did not end on December 21 with the completion of the 13th Baktun cycle. In fact, the Mayans calculated their time measurement millions of years into the future. And that means that all people of goodwill have work to do in the New Year.

I wish you peace, love and prosperity.



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- And
- Good record of at least three (3) years experience in community health or long-term chronic care prior to experience in program management or leadership;
- Knowledge of community health and prevention and promotion approaches and methods in the social and physical domains;
- Knowledge of the MHSSQ programs and regulations for a Community Health and Social Service Centre (CSSSS, formerly CLSC) and its social services, homecare, medical, nursing services and readaptation programs is an asset;
- Knowledge of, or ability to grasp the issues and context related to First Nation health and social services;
- Knowledge of Cree culture and language is an asset;
- Fluent in English and one of Cree or French. Ability to read French. Fluency in the third language is an asset;
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Mme Dominique Chicoine, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

by email to jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca , by fax : 819-855-2680, by mail, P.O. box 250, Chisasibi (Quebec) J0M 1E

We thank everyone who applies, but only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.



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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

by Xavier Kataquapit

It is that time of the year again. With the Christmas and New Year season upon us, a lot of people will be rejoicing in so many ways. Most of this season should be devoted to children having fun, but most of it has ended up being a very stressful time of the year involved with spending money to buy gifts to be happy. It never works.

I see so many families running around in the stores trying to find that special gift that will make their Christmas perfect. The holiday music is playing everywhere and has been since early November. Advertising has been coaxing and manipulating families in regards to what hot products they need this Christmas. Moms and dads are frantically running around trying to make it all work and they feel guilty if their families don't get what everybody else has on the block.

This should be a time when we reflect on our lives and those of the people close to us. (It's also an opportunity to be nice to them all.) Instead we put so much stress on each other for many artificial reasons. This should be a time when we relax a bit and do some fun things as many of us are on holidays. We shouldn't be racing around in our cars from store to store and down the concrete floors of a maze of superstores. The tragedy is that the children are watching this happen and in turn they will learn this behaviour and emulate it as they get older. So our quest for that impossible perfect holiday season will forever be sought for generations to come.

One of the biggest problems with this holiday season has to do with all of the consumption of alcohol and various drugs. Many of us automatically equate Christmas and New Year celebrations with getting drunk and high. That makes for some very terrible memories for a lot of children and ruins what good there should be at this time of the year.

The combination of alcoholism, addictions and stress turns many family and friend gatherings into sad, tragic and sometimes violent situations. While this is all happening the children watch, learn and endure.

Perhaps this so-called special time of the year is a good opportunity for so many of us who are alcoholics or addicts to realize that in fact we have a problem and that something must be done about it. Maybe this is the time to really think about our family, friends and the children with a realization that we can break this cycle of alcoholism and addiction by coming out of denial and getting help. The help is available but a person has to want to seek it. You have to ask for help if you think you might be losing your life to alcoholism or addictions. The problem is that denial is such a thick wall that many people never get to the point that they actually realize they are alcoholics or drug addicts. Their entire lives can be falling apart and everyone around them knows they are drunks and addicts but the self-realization is just not there.

Maybe this is the time of the year to give your family and friends the best Christmas and New Year's gift ever. If you think you have a problem with alcohol or drugs this could be the best opportunity to come out of denial by admitting you're an alcoholic or addict and then reaching out for help and doing something about it. You don't have to wake up every day feeling terrible and living your life in a fog where you depend on alcohol or drugs just to get by. Life can be much better for you, your family and friends.

If you want to do something about your alcoholism or drug addiction, visit www.aa.org and hit the "Is A.A. For You" link to their questionnaire to find out if you have a problem. If you find that your honest answers to these questions obviously point to the fact that you have a problem with alcohol or drugs, then maybe the best gift you could give yourself and your family and friends is to come out of denial and reach out for help. You can start with your nearest Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous group in your area or contact your local drug and alcohol addiction centre. It is not hard to find as this information is in your local phonebook or can be found through a quick search online. Many First Nations have Native drug-and-alcohol-abuse workers who you can talk to.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for digital arts, visual arts, cinema and video projects for the production of works within the framework of the Exposition de synthèse et de référence sur les Premières Nations et les Inuit du Québec [tentative title] at the Musée de la civilisation. Registration deadline: January 26, 2013. For more information: T: 418-528-2582 Toll free: 1-800-897-1707 Email: marianne.thibeault@calq.gouv.qc.ca www.calq.gouv.qc.ca

FNQLHSSC is organizing a contest and invites youths aged 13 to 25 to create a video illustrating what wellness represents to them. The deadline for submitting videos is January 31, 2013 and the voting period (online on Facebook) will begin on February 1, 2013 as part of First Nations Wellness Day. The contest's rules will be available soon on the Facebook page of the FHQLHSSC at www.facebook.com/cssspnql.

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Cultural Manual for Foster and Adoptive parents of Aboriginal Children, launched at the last Gathering of the NETWORK on October 3... CHECK IT OUT! www.reseaumtlnetwork.com/eng/Portals/5/Cultural%20Manual.pdf

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(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085
(www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.
514-843-4333
(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626
(www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:
1-800-363-9010
(www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)


Suicide Action Québec:
1-866-277-3553
(www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

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~ Happy New Year ~

The Niskamoon Corporation
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to wish everyone a safe and
joyful New Year!

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- The Civil Engineering Program
- The 4 programs under the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec (TEHQ)
 - Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics

- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics
- Industrial Electronics in Instrumentation and Automation
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Look out for our posters and stay tuned to your local radio for the time and day we will be in your community! Everyone is welcome!



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